

**R E M A R K S**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**THE CLAIMS**

Claims 33, 39 and 45-47 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the medical data preservation system and method of the present invention operate with respect to a plurality of medical institution units which transmit data from at least one medical institution, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 10, lines 2-6.

In addition, claim 34 has been amended to correct a minor clerical error.

Still further, new claim 48 has been added to recite the subject matter of claim 33 with the additional limitation that the medical data storage unit is capable of identifying individual patient identifying information included in the management information, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 19, lines 1-4.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 33, 34, 39 and 45-47 and the addition of new claim 48 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 33-47 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,253,214 ("Hall et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

As explained in the Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 filed September 5, 2003, according to the systems and methods of the claimed present invention, data can be automatically backed up and stored at a low cost without providing a large-scale server for a particular medical institution.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the systems and methods of the present invention as recited in the amended claims are adapted for use by a plurality of medical institution units corresponding to at least one medical institution, and that use of a common storage server permits unification of forms of medical records for individual medical institutions and common use of the medical records of each patient.

In this way, information about a single patient can be quickly and easily accessed by a plurality of departments within a medical institution or by a plurality of different medical institutions. In addition, the systems and methods of the claimed present invention are adapted to enable easy exchange of information with the entity that manages the server.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Hall et al clearly does not at all disclose, teach or suggest a system which operates with respect to a plurality of medical institution units which correspond to at least one medical institution.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention as recited in the amended claims clearly patentably distinguishes over Hall et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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